The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and authentic interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Whoever knows Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?—Milton.

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Senator Holt Hits Liberty Leaguers

Says Constitution Must Protect the Masses Instead of Being Turned Into an Instrument For Their Oppression by Industrial and Political Tories.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The motley collection of anti-labor political, industrial, legal, financial and economic subservients known as the American Liberty League in waging a united attack on every law enacted by the Congress of the United States during the last three years in the interest of a larger degree of economic rights and social justice for the masses of the American people.

The real significance of this combination of subversive interests was pointedly set forth by Senator Rush D. Holt of West Virginia in an address before the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor.

The convention adopted a resolution describing the Lawyers' Committee of the League which gave an opinion holding the National Labor Relations Act unconstitutional as a group consisting of "corporation lawyers who have repeatedly sought to nullify measures which do not meet with the approval of their clients," and declaring that 'their opinion is therefore the expression of their clients' opposition to the measure and not the unbiased opinion of lawyers interested in a consideration of the actual constitutional validity of the Act."

Here is what Senator Holt told the convention regarding the reactionary and anti-labor elements of which the League is composed:

"I noticed the other day that 58 lawyers had decided that the labor bills recently passed by the last session of Congress were unconstitutional. You know what Thomas Jefferson said about the lawyers. He said the country can be settled by laborers, not by lawyers. Anyway, whenever you get 58 lawyers to agree on anything you had better be careful of them.

Unconstitutional to Feed the People

"These great constitutional lawyers are the same people who said it was unconstitutional to feed people, to keep them from starving to death in this country. My friends, they have forgotten the Constitution for the time, but now they are awakening because they say we must go back to the Constitution.

"I say the interpretation of the American Constitution should be such that the American people can live, and that is what the American Constitution was framed for by the fathers of this country.

"These Constitutionalists, these Liberty Leaguers, we are not afraid of them because we know they are on the way out, and they are on the way out fast. But, my friends, they are making quite a little bit of noise.

Collective Bargaining Upheld

"A whole lot of those jurists have been mentally dead for 20 years and do not know it. They may be active and still walking and still holding their place upon the bench in America, but the head up here has been dead long before the economic theory of the past was dead.

"But today I say it has been changed and we are not fearful that we are trying to cause reaction. You know these Tories, these mossbacks and these in the American people are awake, and they are awake to the principle of the right of American laboring man having a right to bargain collectively and go down the line for collective bargaining.

"I have always believed in collective bargaining, because I have been with the so-called Liberty Leaguers meet at the hotels and determine their course of action. That is within the Constitution, but when the people who toil in America get together and band themselves for the common good, then the Constitution is in danger in this country.

Labor and the Constitution

"I am not afraid of the American Constitution in the hands of the American Federation of Labor and the laboring men of this country. They think more of the Constitution than the Liberty League ever thought of it. They think about the people, and the American people are not afraid of the American labor movement and the development of the Constitution.

"Oh, yes, let us go back to the good old days in West Virginia when men who believed in collective bargaining were met by Baldwin-Felts thugs and beaten over the head and told to go back and mind their own business.

"Whenever a man came in to organize the labor movement in our State in certain sections, he was met on the train and asked what his business was, and if they thought his business was at all dangerous they said, 'The next train is leaving in a few minutes,' and if he did not leave on the next train he was on the way out by some other means and some other method. Maybe that is going back to the Constitution that they talk about.

"Liberty to Starve to Death"

"They say we have taken the liberty away from the people. What liberty have the American people lost in recent years since the forward movement of organized labor has come?

"The liberty they have lost and that the Liberty League wants you to get back is the liberty to starve to death. But we are not going backwards; we are going forward toward a better and a bigger day for organized labor, and for all the crafts and all the unions.

"I have dealt with them and I have to say that in the great State in the mountains of West Virginia and in my short time in the United States Senate I have never had an unfair demand or an unfair move made by those who sponsored the movement in Washington and in Charleston, W. Va. But I have been asked, and I have seen those scandalous lobbyists for the industrialists manipulated.

Congressional Puppet Period Is Ended

"In the past, Congress used to be just like a puppet show. Those men in Congress were puppets and they danced and sang and talked just like they were real, just like they were human beings, but back behind the scenes we saw someone pulling the strings and we saw those behind the screen making the puppets in the national legislative body sing, dance and talk.

"That day has also gone, and in the place of the puppet business we have substituted the idea of being courageous.

"I admire a man who is courageous enough to fight for what he believes.

National Housing Plan Urged By Building Trades Unions and Housing Conference

Federal Subsidies Held Necessary to Develop Program—Regional Housing Committee Recommended.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Representatives of nearly one million organized building trades workers who met with the Labor Housing Conference here in a collaboration of a national housing policy to remedy the housing crisis resulting from the fact that the nation has not even attained one-fifth of the average level of residential production which characterized the 1920's.

In addition to providing much-needed houses for the masses it was pointed out that the plan would create employment for the building trades, about two-thirds of whose members have been jobless since 1932.

The program adopted would include the establishment of a permanent Federal housing agency, the granting of Federal subsidies and Federal labor standards on all projects.

Officers of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, representatives of the building trades unions and the Labor Housing Conference represented by Miss Catherine Bauer, drafted the establishment of 60 labor housing committees affiliated with the Labor Housing Conference and their trade unions throughout the country.

Federal Subsidies Necessary

The statement of the union spokesmen declared that the carrying out of a housing program "there must be a clear cut recognition of Federal subsidies," adding: "In general, families with incomes under $1,200 to $1,500 cannot be housed without some form of Federal grant or subsidy. The only agency which can supply such grants today is the Federal Government."

The union representatives were also emphatic in adequate preservation of labor standards in the housing plan. On this subject they said:

"In return for financial aid the Federal Government must enact adequate standards in all publicly assisted housing projects. One of these basic standards is that prevailing wages must be paid all workers on housing projects. Another is that every project must meet certain definite standards of physical space and equipment and neighborhood planning and facilities. Rent levels and management must also be controlled by the housing agency."

Labor Representatives Sign

Those signing the statement, besides Miss Bauer, included J. W. Williams and M. J. McDonough, Building Trades Department; Richard Rivere of the A. F. of L. Building Trades Department; Henry Blumberg of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; Dan Collins of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union; John Coyne of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Also William Gallagher of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers; Michael F. Garrett of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters; John W. Garvey of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union; Dan Grady of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers; William Hebert of the Tile Setters' Helpers; James Myler of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers' International Association.

And C. W. Sickles of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers; Fred Tobin of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers; Dan W. Tracy of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Government Requests Facts on History Of Labor Unions in the United States

Historical Records Survey Is Making Thorough Survey of Workers Organized Efforts to Improve Social Conditions.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Historical Records Survey, associated with the Federal Writers' Projects of the Works Progress Administration, is conducting an inventory of all State and local collections of historical material, including Government records, newspapers, pamphlets and manuscripts.

It says the principal source of information about American labor history, especially in early times," declares an official statement, "is a matter of concern to investigators of the efforts of labor to improve social conditions," adding:

"Much interesting and significant material undoubtedly still lies in collections of old printed or manuscript sources which have never been seen even by careful researchers."

The Historical Records Survey," the statement continues, "would therefore be grateful to members and officers of unions for information concerning any collections which have or may come to their attention, in organization offices, public depositories, or private hands; particularly newspapers and magazines containing labor notices; pamphlets; union records and correspondence; files of periodical labor leaders, including letters; and other significant material.

Please send all further communications to Dr. Luther H. Evans, Historical Records Survey, 1734 Eye Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

"Your interest and cooperation in this work will be fully acknowledged and appreciated.

"The eventual result of the work is to lead to be a master inventory of the State and local government documents and a guide to manuscript

HANSON BITTERLY ATTACKS FEDERAL LABOR MEASURES

Counsel for Newspaper Publishers Urges Employers to Knife Social Security Act, Wagner Labor Disputes Act and Black 30-Hour Week Bill.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The hostile attitude of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association towards Federal social justice legislation is strikingly revealed in the address made by Elisha Hanson, general counsel for the Association, before the annual convention of the Ohio Daily Newspaper Association at Columbus, Ohio.

The Social Security Act, the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act, and the pending Black-Connery Thirty-Hour-Week Bill were included among measures which he said "would seriously cripple the press of this country."

The Social Security Act establishes a system of Federal assistance for old-age pensions and unemployment relief in financing State unemployment insurance plans. Mr. Hanson advised publishers to pay taxes levied by this act "only under protest."

The Labor Disputes Act sets up an encouragement of collective bargaining in the settlement of industrial disputes by a policy of the Federal Government, declares that employes shall have the right to organize in labor unions and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and forbids interference by employers and prohibits as unfair labor practices various measures used by employers to prevent the exercise of these rights. Mr. Hanson said that "no publisher should voluntarily submit" to the Act.

The Black-Connery Thirty-Hour-Week Bill would establish the 30-hour week by Federal law in all interstate industries in order to provide employment for a considerable portion of the jobless army now numbering over 11,000,000. It is the only measure which offers an adequate remedy for the national tragedy of unemployment.

It is regrettable that the counsel for the American Newspaper Publishers' Association should line up the newspaper publishing industry against these such socially constructive and socially just measures.

If he can't fight with me I want him to fight against me.

"These politicians wait to see what is happening before they decide which side of the fence to go on.

"I have taken my side—I have taken it with labor, and I intend to go down the line with it.

"If I must go down to defeat I will go down because I believe in the idea that the men who toil in this country should be represented in the national legislative bodies of our country.

"We talk about labor and the dangers of labor.

"We have tried the 'old dealers,' the moosbacks, the Tories, the coupon clippers, and they gave us fifteen million unemployed, thousands of closed banks, hundreds of destroyed merchants, and the worst depression this country has ever had, and we are not going back, we are going forward toward a better day.

"If I live my span of life, which means 40 years more, I will continue to battle for the man who toil in the mills, mines and factories of this country."

WPA SHIRKERS RISK LOSS OF JOBS, HOPKINS SAYS

Small Group Cited As Hampering Efficient Operation of Projects

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—An order warning a small group of shirkers on work relief projects that they may be penalized by suspension, dismissal or alternative penalties was issued by Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator. Foremen and supervisors who permit shirking, he said, will be subject to the same penalties. He explained the necessities for the order by the charge that a small number of relief workers are hampering the "efficient operation" of WPA projects.

"It is the policy of the Works Progress Administration," he said, "that projects shall be operated with the maximum degree of efficiency that is compatible with carrying out the primary purpose of the work program, which is to transfer people from the relief rolls to useful work. In the great majority of cases workers to whom employment has been given have shown that they desire to render conscientious service.

"Reports have been received, however, that in certain localities a small proportion of workers have detracted from the efficiency of operation of projects by the unwillingness to deliver a fair day's work coupled with a belief that they can continue to work on relief regardless of their attitude. Workers employed on Works Progress Administration projects are expected to render as conscientious service to that Administration as they would to a regular Government department or a private employer. Habitual and intentional shirking will not be tolerated.

"In cases of demonstrated shirking or misconduct, employes may be suspended without pay for periods not exceeding one month, or may be discharged. Since foremen and supervisors are responsible that conscientious service is rendered by all employes under their jurisdiction, those who habitually permit shirking by workers who are under their direction may be similarly suspended or discharged.

"Employes discharged for these reasons will not again be employed by the Works Progress Administration, either in the same or another project. Care will they be certified for employment to any other Government agency which is participating in the works program unless they can show that the discharge was wrongful.

"State administrators are responsible that the contents of this order are brought to the attention of all employes and that its provisions are enforced."

ENFORCEMENT OF MISSOURI CHILD LABOR LAW ORDERED

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLNS)—Rigid enforcement of the Missouri law forbidding the employment of children of school age was ordered in the St. Louis area in a letter from Labor Commissioner Mary Edna Crusen to Mrs. Lottie Walsh, Deputy State Labor Commissioner here.

Inspectors were ordered to pay particular attention to night clubs, restaurants and theaters, where, Miss Crusen said, she had received reports that entertainers under 16 years old were performing regularly without obtaining permits from school authorities despite the fact that many entertainers of mature age are employed.

EDITORIALS

CONVICT LABOR LAW BEFORE SUPREME COURT

The reactionary interests who are determined to lower the living standards of the masses by selling convict-made goods in the open market in competition with the products of free labor have made their last stand by challenging the constitutionality of the Hawes-Cooper Convict Labor Act before the United States Supreme Court.

The passage of the Hawes-Cooper Act by Congress was the culmination of many years' effort on the part of organized labor and other progressive forces to extend the state use system, under which all products made in State prisons and reformatories are not sold to the public but used by State institutions.

The Act provides that convict-made goods shipped from one State into another shall come under the laws of the latter State the same as if manufactured there. This means that a State legislature prohibits the sale of its own convict-made products on the open market, it is illegal for any other State to sell its convict-made goods in that State.

Twenty-four States have established the state use system and accepted the provisions of the Hawes-Cooper Act.

Alabama still clings to the anti-social system of selling its convict-made goods on the open market. It not only sells these products in Alabama but attempts to impose them on States which have accepted the Hawes-Cooper Act and barred such products from their borders.

In pursuit of this commerce in convict-made goods, Asa H. Whitfield, an Alabama official, shipped work shirts made in the Wetumpka prison to Ohio and sold them in that State in violation of the Ohio statute which prohibits such sales in compliance with the terms of the Hawes-Cooper Act. Mr. Whitfield was convicted of violating the Ohio statute. His appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court was dismissed. This action in effect affirmed the constitutionality of the Hawes-Cooper Act.

The conviction of Mr. Whitfield was challenged by the State of Alabama before the United States Supreme Court on the ground that the Hawes-Cooper Act violates the Federal Constitution. Counsel for Alabama claimed the Federal Constitution gives equal rights to all States, prohibits taking property without due process of law, and bars legislation burdening interstate commerce.

All of these alleged constitutional rights of Alabama, it was claimed, were abolished so far as Ohio was concerned when that State in order to protect its own citizens put Alabama convict-made goods on the same footing as the convict-made goods produced in its own prisons and declared their sale on the open market in Ohio was illegal.

In commenting on the arguments made, Justice Sutherland said the question before the court was "whether Ohio can put convict-made goods in one class and those produced by free labor in another class."

The vital issue in the case was summed up by John W. Bricker, Attorney General of Ohio, who defended the Hawes-Cooper Act. Pointing out that the Supreme Court had invariably upheld the validity of the police powers of the States and the Nation in protecting the welfare of citizens, he said the Act was necessary to protect both free capital from competition by prison-made articles, adding:

"To set aside the Hawes-Cooper Act as violative of any constitutional provision would be to deny to Congress the power to enable the States to correct an evil inimical to the welfare of their people, and to construe the Constitution so as to emasculate and accomplish an end which its framers sought to preclude."

The Hawes-Cooper Act is modeled after the Wilson Act, by which Congress divested intoxicating liquors of their interstate character where States barred their manufacture and sale within their own borders. The Wilson Act was held constitutional by the Supreme Court. Observers are of the opinion that the court will follow this precedent and hold the Hawes-Cooper Act a valid exercise of the powers of Congress.

ORDERLY JUDICIAL PROCEDURE

The desirability of orderly judicial procedure in considering cases arising under the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act is implied in the decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit denying the application the Bemis Brothers Bag Company of Knoxville, Tenn., for a temporary restraining order enjoining the National Labor Relations Board from holding a hearing on the complaint filed by Local 1838, United Textile Workers of America, charging the company with violating the provisions of the Act.

Application for the injunction was originally made to Federal Judge John D. Martin, in the U. S. Court of the Western District of Tennessee. The company claimed the Act was unconstitutional. Judge Martin affirmed the constitutionality of the Act and denied the injunction. The Cincinnati Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Martin's action in denying the injunction, but refrained from passing on the constitutionality of the Act under the case as presented. The decision emphasized the point that the claim of "irreparable damage," which the company alleged it would suffer as a result of the hearing, was not adequate to warrant the injunction. The court considered the injunction question entirely apart from the alleged unconstitutionality of the measure.

The decision of the Cincinnati Court of Appeals strengthens the judicial procedure set up in the Act itself. The measure gives the National Labor Relations Board authority to hold hearings on complaints that an employer has violated the Act. If the Board finds that evidence sustains the charges it is authorized to issue a cease and desist order requiring the employer to end the specified illegal practices. If the order is disobeyed and the Board's cease and desist order, the Board is authorized to petition the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals of the district wherein the unfair labor practice is committed for a decision concurred for the enforcement of the Board's ruling. On the other hand, employers or other persons who are aggrieved by a final order of the Board also have the right to take the matter before the Circuit Court of Appeals.

Despite this plain mandate of the Wagner-Connery Act itself, citing the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals as the first judicial body to consider cases arising under the Act, a number of Federal district judges have assumed the authority to intervene, and acting on petitions from employers and other persons have issued injunctions restraining the Board from even holding hearings on complaints charging unfair labor practices. In the neighborhood of thirty injunctions of this character have been issued. They constitute a serious handicap to the work of the Labor Relations Board in administering the Act.

The decision of the Cincinnati Circuit Court of Appeals impliedly affirms the propriety of handling cases under the Act in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Act itself. It is hoped the ruling will be influential in encouraging the application of orderly judicial procedure by the court of Federal district judges who still may be inclined to ignore the stipulations of the Act and enjoin the Labor Board from hearings charging employers with unfair labor practices.

MENACE OF UNREGULATED COMPETITION

The competitive system of production must be regulated by effective price fixing or the cost of existence as an unsuccessful experiment.

This was the conclusion reached in a brief submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States by the Cotton Textile Institute, the Window Glass Manufacturers' Association, the National Lumbermen Manufacturers' Association and the Consumers' Goods Industries Association in a brief filed in the government suit to dissolve the Sugar Institute of New York, which has been held by both the Federal District Court and Circuit Court of Appeals to be a monopolistic and in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Price fixing is the essential point involved in the government complaint that the Sugar Institute used this practice to eliminate the form of competition called "individual bargaining" and substituted for it "mass bargaining" under which all refiners and other sugar sellers are closely organized and cooperate unitedly.

The group of manufacturing associations submitted their brief as a "friend of the court." The brief argued that in its ordinary functioning competition develops "wasteful practices" which, in the absence of Government regulations, must be mitigated by "voluntary cooperation" among the competitors.

"It is not too much to say" the brief declared, "that the only practicable methods of securing reasonable stability and the elimination of destructive practices—concurrently with the continuance of the fundamentals of competition—is effectively controlled if the competitive system in its present form is to survive."

The Sugar Institute and the manufacturers associations filed with the Supreme Court to decide that the price fixing and other methods of monopolistic control allegedly practiced by the Institute do not violate the anti-trust law.

FOUR LOSE THEIR LIVES IN LACE FACTORY BLAST

By A. F. of L. News Service.

North Bergen, N. J.—Four workers were killed and one seriously burned in an explosion which wrecked the Vitrolace and embroidery factory here. Mr. Vittori, the owner of the factory; his wife, his eldest daughter, and another employe met death instantly. Another daughter of the owner suffered third-degree burns.

The factory was a two-and-a-half story building which housed the looms for making lace and embroidery and provided living quarters for the Vittoris.

The first explosion wrecked the interior of the building and the second blew off the roof. The blast was heard over half a mile. Lace curtains making his rounds a block away was blown from his feet.

The explosion is attributed to the lack of adequate legislation to protect the workers from the hazards connected with the use of dangerous explosives in manufacturing. Fire authorities said the Vittoris used as a base for their embroidery a compound composed in part of nitro-glycerine. The fabric, they added, is so explosive that it ignites with a detonation if exposed to the sunlight, temperature or concussion.

Explosions of the compound have destroyed other embroidery plants in this area during the last 10 years and endangered many lives. Its use has been discouraged by fire department officials, but the lack of State regulation to protect the workers results in many employers imposing the risk of injury and death on their employes rather than using available substitutes for nitro-glycerine because of the added expense involved.

Labor's Rights in Corporation Licensing Bill Are Detailed By Senator O'Mahoney

Claims Wealth Concentration and Millions of Small-Income Families Justify Federal Regulation of Big Business.

Firms Covered by Measure Must Recognize Right of Workers To Organize in Labor Unions And Bargain Collectively

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A Federal license law to bring big business under social control in the interest of the masses is a paramount necessity in our national life, declared Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney in a radio address here detailing the features of his bill now pending in the Senate requiring corporations engaged in interstate business to secure licenses from the Federal Government.

Among the social phenomena emphasizing the importance of this legislation he cited the continued concentration of wealth and economic power in the hands of a few corporations through monopolistic control of industry and the existence of millions of families on incomes of less than $1,000 a year.

"There can be no proper consideration of this problem," Senator O'Mahoney said, "unless the mind understands and accepts the fundamental facts which constitute it. Let me ask you, therefore, to dwell on the bond to listen to this discussion, to take the pencil and to write down at this moment, if you will, two primary facts—facts not opinions—which explain better than a thousand words what I mean when I say the trouble is with the United States at the present moment.

Low Income Families in 1929

"In 1929, just before we experienced what we called the depression, 6,000,000 American families—families, not individuals—had incomes of less than a thousand dollars a year. Six million families at the height of our supposed prosperity were in such a desperate economic situation that they were unable to earn more than an income of less than $25 a week per family.

Wealth Concentration in Corporations

"Now the second item. In 1932, 392,000 corporations filed income tax returns with the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue. The total assets reported by these corporations amounted to more than $360,000,000,000. And than 53 per cent of those assets thus reported—in fact, 200 corporations were owned by only 618 corporations, or less than five-tenths of 1 per cent of the total number of United States making tax returns that year.

Few Rich, Many Poor

"There can be no dispute about these facts. Appalling poverty at one end of the scale, appalling wealth at the other; that was the economic picture of America before the crash, and it was easy to place the blame for this condition upon an economic system which could demn no one. I only know that the situation thus described constitutes the problem which we must solve if it is to endure as a nation."

Expressing the "confident belief" that his bill "strikes at the basis upon which we may build an economic order in which increasing production and increasing employment will go hand in hand with economy in government," Senator O'Mahoney declared:

Includes Collective Bargaining

"It attempts, in some degree at least," he said, "to meet directly the primary problem of our day—unemployment and the restoration of public purchasing power.

"It contains a bill of rights for labor, in that it provides that every corporation doing business among the States or with foreign nations shall agree not to employ child labor, not to discriminate against female employes and to recognize the right of collective bargaining.

"These are three propositions upon which there is no substantial disagreement. All political platforms contain them, but they are not made effective simply because there appears to be no constitutional method of enforcing them except through a national corporation law."

Economic Liberty Is Being Destroyed

"When you hear any person talk about liberty and the preservation," he added, "do not forget that liberty will be no political liberty without economic freedom.

"In a society in which millions are out of employment and dependent upon the Government for their support, although business and trade are humming; in a society in which the investor is without any effective voice in directing the uses of his capital; in a society in which the consumer has no means of protecting himself against exploitation; in a society in which the control of the means of trade, industry and commerce has fallen into the hands of a steadily decreasing few, political liberty is vanishing and political liberty is endangered."

Restoration of Mass Buying Power

"Modern industry," he concluded, "cannot continue to expand if the purchasing power of the masses continues to contract.

"This bill which I have introduced offers, I believe, the best means by which it would stop the progressive concentration of wealth and economic power which is the essential obstacle to progress.

"By abolishing the corporate evils, which everybody condemns, but which nobody can prevent, because the States are powerless and the Federal Government is without statutory authority to act, we can restore the forces which the economic shackles it now wears and open the gates to an economy of plenty.

"Production will be increased upon the farm and in the mill, the purchasing power of the masses will be restored, the unlimited resources of the greatest Nation under the sun will again be made available for the happiness and prosperity of our people if only by the exercise of calm common sense we assert as a Nation our constitutional power to require national charters for national commerce."

The Federal licensing bill sponsored by Senator O'Mahoney is approved by the American Federation of Labor. It is hoped that Congress will enact the measure into law during the present session.

IMPORTANCE OF BUYING UNION LABEL PRODUCTS

By JAMES A. DOWD

Secretary, Union Label Section, Boston Central Labor Union

The demand for union-made products as symbolized by the union label, stamp or shop card is one of the ways that members of organized labor and their friends and sympathizers may assist effectively in promoting the work of organization.

This is a way that accomplishes results in the least expensive and most subtle form.

By the laws of business the merchant will supply the demands of the trade, and when members of organized labor insist in buying only those goods or service bear evidence that organized labor has been employed or will be employed, the merchant will respond to the demand for such labor.

If this demand could be once established in a widespread form it would be proportionately easier to get merchants and employers to see that union labor was employed and a greater variety of products would be available from which to make selections.

It is noteworthy that quantity and quality of union-made products expand with steady and increasing demand, and members of organized labor can each contribute substantially to the organization campaign by directing their purchasing power to the products of production of union-made articles.

Solidarity in the use of the purchasing power is as vital as solidarity in a strike or a wage or hour demand.

It is a matter of cooperation, and the worker unwilling to assist other workers by helping to give them employment and wages is instantly unable to receive union wages and conditions is only a half-developed union member.

CANADIAN UNEMPLOYMENT HELD NATIONAL PROBLEM

Government Counsel Tells Supreme Court Provinces Are Unable to Provide Adequate Remedy.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Ottawa, Can.—Louis Saint-Laurent, counsel for the Canadian Government, told the Supreme Court here that unemployment in Canada has reached proportions which create problems of magnitude and importance transcending provincial boundaries and making the matter a national concern.

The statement was made in an argument affirming the constitutionality of Federal law establishing unemployment insurance enacted by the Canadian Parliament.

The action to the unemployment insurance act the court is considering involves the validity of three laws establishing minimum wages, the eight-hour day and weekly rest. All these laws are being challenged by a number of the provinces which claim that legislation of this character is wholly within their jurisdiction.

The Government contends that unemployment has become a national and international problem and is therefore within the Federal powers laid down by the British North America Act.

Mr. Saint-Laurent said the percentage of unemployed wage earners in-creased from 4.6 in 1929, to 23 in the early months of 1933. By August, 1933, the percentage of jobless had fallen to 17.4 per cent.

"In Canada," he added, "as well as in other countries like Great Britain, it is conceded that about 11 per cent of wage earners are normally unemployed, any number over this 11 per cent may be considered as thrown out of work by the depression."

The Government justifies the unemployment insurance act under its general powers to legislate for the "peace and good government" of Canada, its powers over trade and commerce, its authority to raise money by any system of taxation, and its power to enact laws fulfilling treaty obligations contracted through conventions of the International Labor Organization at Geneva.

TROUSERS SHORTAGE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The low living standards imposed upon millions of America's workers by prolonged unemployment and upon millions of employed workers by low wages and declining purchasing power are pointedly emphasized recently in a lecture at the University of Chicago by Dr. Walton Hamilton, and Dr. Gardiner C. Means, Allison, of the Edison Electrical Institute.

In discussing the clothing supply, he said: "Only one pair of trousers for every three men and one overcoat for every 11 men were manufactured in the United States last year."

Inasmuch as the members of the "leisure class," recently emphasized by John P. Morgan as being the advantages of civilization, are usually blessed with a superfluity of clothing, it is quite evident that those below the leisure class are getting along with the vintage of previous years.

A THRIFTY AMBASSADOR

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The ability of some of the persons in the foreign service of the United States to capitalize their experiences abroad for private profit is revealed by the payments which Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., made to Gerard W. Gerard, former ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States to Germany.

Upon his return to America Mr. Gerard wrote a book entitled "My Four Years in Germany." Warner Brothers paid him $50,000 for the right to film the book and paid additional as his share of the profits made from the picture. In his income tax testimony the court revealing these facts it cost Warner Brothers $50,400 to film the book. It was claimed the firm made $100,000 from the movie.